

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A positioning device comprising:

a casing having an opening and a process chamber kept in an environment different from the outside;

a table arranged in said process chamber;

a connecting portion connected to said table and extending through said opening to the outside;

a moving portion connected to said connecting portion outside of said process chamber;

~~a base for supporting said moving portion movably~~a movable base which supports the moving portion movably by moving together with the moving portion relative to the casing;

a differential pumping seal arranged between said casing and said moving portion; and

adjusting support mechanisms for supporting said movable base and said casing in a relatively displacing manner so as to hold a clearance between said base and said casing constant.

2. (Original) A positioning device according to Claim 1,

wherein said casing is placed on a surface plate, and

wherein said base is placed on said surface plate through said adjusting support mechanisms.

3. (Previously Presented) A positioning device according to Claim 2,
wherein said base is supported at three points or more by support portions of said
adjusting support mechanisms.

4. (Original) A positioning device according to Claim 1,
wherein each of said adjusting support mechanisms includes: a first adjusting portion for
displacing said base and said casing in a first extent relatively to each other; and a second
adjusting portion for causing the displacement in a smaller extent than said first extent.

5. (Previously Presented) A positioning device according to Claim 1,
wherein said adjusting support mechanisms include hydraulic drive sources.

6. (Previously Presented) A positioning device according to Claim 1,
wherein said adjusting support mechanisms include electric drive sources.

7. (Previously Presented) A positioning device according to Claim 6,
wherein said adjusting support mechanisms include means for suppressing the relative
displacement of said base and said casing when no electric power is supplied.

8. (Previously Presented) A positioning device according to Claim 1,
wherein said casing includes a process chamber casing having a first opening for
accessing said process chamber, and a seal plate having a second opening and arranged between
said process chamber casing and said moving portion,

wherein said connecting portion extends through said first opening and said second
opening, and

wherein an O-ring or a bellows is so arranged between said process chamber casing and
said seal plate as to enclose said first opening and said second opening.

9. (Previously Presented) The positioning device according to claim 1, further
comprising a drive unit connected to the moving portion through a connecting portion for
moving the moving portion.